



**Department of
Environmental
Protection**

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Christopher O. Ward
Commissioner

Bureau of Water Supply

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Deputy Commissioner

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March 31, 2003

Richard Hall
Acting Facility Project Manager
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation
Millennium Pipeline Project
2150 NYS Route 12
Binghamton, NY 13901

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OFFICE OF COUNSEL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Mr. Hall,


New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) representatives met with you and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer representatives on February 21, 2003. During the meeting and in follow up correspondence to Joe Rutkowski, dated February 27, 2003, you stated that Millennium prefers to build its pipeline across the Catskill Aqueduct at the Bryn Mawr Siphon. In your letter to Mr. Rutkowski, you further stated that crossing the Aqueduct at other locations beyond the Bryn Mawr Siphon is infeasible.

DEP remains opposed to building the Millennium Pipeline over the Bryn Mawr Siphon. Whether it is built at ground surface or 5 feet above the earth, its proximity to the Catskill Aqueduct imperils the water supply of the City of New York. Despite several years of effort, Millennium has never presented DEP with any engineering analysis that demonstrates that a pipeline could be built safely across the Bryn Mawr Siphon.

DEP prefers that Millennium avoid the Bryn Mawr Siphon area altogether and build the pipeline along the New York State Thruway. DEP prefers this location because the Aqueduct in this area is a pressure tunnel, built in bedrock, and located approximately 95 feet below the Thruway. A natural gas pipeline built at land surface just beneath the Thruway in this area would pose less to the City's water supply.

At last month's meeting, you stated that the Thruway alternative was not feasible. DEP believes the pipeline can be built along the Thruway and, unlike the Bryn Mawr Siphon, would not imperil the integrity of the Catskill Aqueduct. DEP is ready to assist Millennium in developing this alternative.

Sincerely,


Michael A. Principe, Ph.D.

cc: ✓ Glen Bruening, NYSDOS
Magalie R. Salas, FERC
Colonel Dowd, Army Corps of Engineers

